

**REQUEST****FOR****CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Application Number	09/576,944
Filing Date	May 22, 2000
Confirmation Number	2729
First Named Inventor	Terry B. Strom
Group Art Unit	1644
Examiner Name	P. Gambel
Attorney Docket Number	1440.1024-001

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114****a. [X] Previously submitted**

i. ☒ Consider the Amendment After Final Rejection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on December 24, 2002.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on [ ].

iii. ☐ Other -- [ ].

**b. [X] Enclosed**

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☒ Petition for Extension of Time - 2 month with copy

v. ☐ Other -- [ ].

**2. Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [ ] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other -- [ ].

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ A check is enclosed for the following fees in the total amount of \$1160.00

OR

☐ Authorization is granted to charge the following fees in the total amount of \$[ ] to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 05/05/2003 AWONDAF1 00000014 09576944

ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 750.00 0P

iii. ☐ Amendment Fee

iv. ☐ Other -- [ ].

b. ☒ Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Deirdre E. Sanders	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,122
Signature	<i>Deirdre E. Sanders</i>	Date	April 28, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Name (Print/Type)	Kelley A. Farris	Date	04/28/03
Signature	<i>Kelley A. Farris</i>		